GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4526
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
FIRE IN FORESTS
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Rao Shri Devarakonda Vittal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest fires that have occurred during the last three years in the country, State-wise ;

(b) the reasons for the same ;

(c) the loss estimated by the Government in this regard, State-wise ;

(d) whether the Government is taking any assistance from foreign firms to mitigate the forest fires in the country ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the steps taken / to be taken by the Government to protect the forests from forest fires ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A.RAJA)

(a) State-wise figures for forest fires for last three years as reported by the States and Union Territories are indicated in Annexure - I.

(b) Almost all the forest fires are man made (unintentional or intentional). Intentional fires are set in the forests for various reasons such as collection of minor forest produce, to get fresh succulent grasses or to propitiate the local deity etc.

(c) The monitory losses, State-wise are indicated in Annexure-I. However these losses don`t include intangible losses such as loss of Biodiversity, loss of soil fertility, damage to regeneration, adverse impact on environment etc.

(d) & (e) No, Sir.

(f) Central assistance has been provided upto 2004-05 to the States and Union Territories under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme for prevention and control of forest fires. The funds were provided for creation and maintenance of fire lines, fire watchers, construction of watch towers, water harvesting structures, field vehicles, assistance to village forest committees, training, awareness and publicity.

ANNEXURE - I
Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) and (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4526 for reply on 25.4.05 regarding `Fire in Forests`

INCIDENCE OF FOREST FIRES (AS REPORTED BY STATES / UTs)

States/UTs Year 2001-02 Year 2002-03 Year 2003-04

No of Incidents Losses

(Rs. in lakhs) No of Incidents Losses

(Rs. in lakhs) No of Incidents Losses

(Rs. in lakhs)

Other States

Andhra Pradesh 185 0.28 154 # 274 2.02
Arunachal Pr. 3 17.23 Nil Nil 1 12.29
Bihar # # 134 # 80 #
Chhattisgarh 113 223 2.09 365 0.10
Gujarat 559 17.87 695 8.31 885 13.68
Goa # # 2 # # #
Haryana 52 # 36 # 25 #
Himachal Pradesh282 40.26 550 74.30 769 86.41
Jammu & Kashmir 175 # 413 # 23 #
Jharkhand # # # # # #
Karnataka 104 NIL 51 0.26 40 0.25
Kerala 580 3.31 258 0.63 1019 4.06
Madhya Pradesh 451 0.01 481 0.47 # #
Maharashtra 2023 23.00 1723 15.00 1969 11.00
Orissa 29 4.58 15 2.85 157 0.25
Punjab 133 24.34 455 27.71 254 17.08
Rajasthan 36 # 11 0.15 15 0.04
Tamilnadu 231 # 339 # 2 #
Uttar Pradesh 226 2.70 75 1.17 84 1.19
Uttaranchal 367 1.17 498 5.19 1025 10.12
West Bengal 55 3.04 82 # 202 #

NE & Sikkim
Assam Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil
Manipur # # # # # #
Meghalaya # # # # # #
Mizoram 7 1.65 13 0.10 13 1.27
Nagaland # # # # # #
Sikkim 9 # 14 # 18 #
Tripura 201 0.10 # # # #

UTs

A&N Islands # # Nil Nil 4 9.90
Chandigarh # # Nil Nil Nil Nil
D&N Haveli 11 # 25 # 8 #
Daman & Diu # # # # # #
Lakshdweep # # Nil Nil Nil Nil
NCT Delhi # # # # # #
Pondicheri Nill Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil
Not available